



25 April 2019, Strasbourg, France

Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group videoconference meeting

The Pharmacopoeial Discussion Group (PDG) held its interim videoconference on Wednesday 13 March 2019. The PDG, which brings together the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.), Japanese Pharmacopoeia (JP) and the United States Pharmacopoeia (USP) with WHO (International Pharmacopoeia) as Observer, to discuss international harmonisation of quality standards, has now completed work on 28 of the 31 general chapters and 46 of the 60 excipient monographs on its current work programme.

During this videoconference, the PDG discussed revisions to texts that have already been harmonised. This led to an agreement that the section on “Compliance with a pharmacopoeial requirement” should be deleted from the instrumental method in chapter *Q-07 Color*, since further discussion was necessary to consider the approach to handle existing monographs where the visual method is already specified. Harmonisation work on this general chapter will therefore continue.

As part of the general streamlining of PDG procedures, the three pharmacopoeias decided that the PDG harmonization policy ([Link](#)), which had already been revised in 2003, ought to be further updated to provide additional clarity to users. A discussion also took place on how information on progress made by the PDG should be shared amongst the PDG member pharmacopoeias and other pharmacopoeias participating in the International Meeting of World Pharmacopoeias (IMWP). These discussions will be continued at the next face-to-face meeting which will be hosted by the JP on 1-2 October 2019 in Tokyo (Japan) and which will be immediately followed on 3 October 2019 by the celebratory PDG 30th Anniversary Symposium, which is open to the public.

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Note for the Editor: Further information is available on the internet site <https://www.edqm.eu/>
The EDQM is a leading organisation that protects public health by enabling development, supporting implementation, and monitoring the application of quality standards for safe medicines and their safe use. Our standards are recognised as a scientific benchmark worldwide. The European Pharmacopoeia is legally binding in member states¹. Similarly, the EDQM develops guidance and standards in the areas of blood transfusion, organ transplantation and consumer health issues.

¹There are thirty-nine members of the [European Pharmacopoeia](#) Commission: *Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Republic of North Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European Union.*

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